



TOP OF THE HILL



MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY 4001 HARDING ROAD, NASHVILLE, TN 37205
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The Election Issue

Election Day Recap

By Sam Meacham



This year's Election Day was one of the wildest ever. It finished with Donald Trump winning an upset victory over Hillary Clinton by carrying all the key states he needed to win. This outcome was completely unexpected by almost all the media, who predicted a strong Clinton victory. Also happening were the Senate and House of Representatives elections, in which the Republicans maintained majorities in both halves of Congress. The term coming up is looking good for Republicans, who hold Congress and the Presidency.

Trump's upset win surprised almost every major news outlet. Before the election, the media predicted that Trump needed to win Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, and at least one expected Democratic state like Pennsylvania or Michigan. Throughout the early part of the day, it was not looking good for Trump. The exit polls at voting sites seemed to favor Hillary, and few expected him to have even a chance. The returns began coming in around 6 P.M. Central Time. Trump had early wins in Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia, which were expected to go for him. Clinton won a few solid Democratic states, but there were no major electoral surprises until later in the

night. Throughout the day, talk swirled about Michigan and Wisconsin, usually Democratic states, possibly coming into play. Many more working-class and rural voters who were likely to support Trump came out to vote than expected. Despite the concerns in these northern states, Clinton was still favored to win, as she picked up the big battleground state of Virginia, home to her running mate Senator Tim Kaine.

The election started to swing in Trump's favor later in the night. Florida, possibly the state with the most unclear result, was up in the air for hours, but Trump came out with a close win. The same happened in North Carolina and Ohio, two key battleground states that Trump needed. At this point, Trump seemed to be in control, but still needed a Democratic state to win. That came when Wisconsin's ten electoral votes went to Trump. This was a huge blow to Hillary, who had relied on the strong blue states in the North. *The New York Times* gave Trump a 93% chance of winning after Wisconsin, and the final blow to the Clinton campaign came when Trump surprisingly won Pennsylvania, putting him over the magic number of 270 electoral votes. As of the

following morning, New Hampshire, and Minnesota have yet to be called, but Trump has won the election.

The reactions around the world have been mixed. The Dow Jones Futures stocks plummeted 900 points because of Trump's plans to radically change the market, but have seemed to stabilize as of the following morning. Certain world leaders have expressed differing opinions. Vladimir Putin is happy about the Trump victory and, according to *The New York Times*, has expressed hope for "constructive dialogue." Also pleased have been the prime minister of Israel and certain right-wing leaders in Europe. NATO leaders have not been as pleased, as Trump has mentioned pulling out of the multinational treaty. Asian countries such as China and Japan have shown concern about future relations under Trump. Overall, Trump's victory is still fresh, and the lasting results are unclear.

IN THIS ISSUE

Election	1 - 5
On the Hill	6 - 12
Entertainment	13 - 20
Sports	21 - 26
Big Red Sports	26 - 31
Jack's Back Page	32

Election 2016

An Overview of the Presidential Race: Discord, Dissent, and Drama

By Sam Meacham



Some major issues in this year's election were the state of the economy, racial relations, immigration, and terrorism. These questions were discussed in the presidential debate on September 26. That debate focused on the three issues of race, jobs, and terrorism. A major part of the debate over the economy is taxation. Like many Republican candidates, Trump supports a tax cut on big business, so the companies' wealth can "trickle down" and create more jobs for middle and lower-income workers. He also supports a cut on income tax. Clinton says this plan would be disastrous for the economy. She claims that Trump's tax plan would be increasing the national debt by \$5 trillion over ten years. Tax Foundation says it would also raise middle income family taxes compared to the wealthy, creating disadvantages for them.

Tax Policy Center's analysis of Clinton's plan argues that it encourages tax increases on high-income citizens and on corporations. While it results in an increase in federal tax revenue by \$1.1 trillion over ten years, it also raises taxes on upper-class citizens.

On the issue of terrorism, Trump wants to work with other nations to combat ISIS. Unfortunately, Trump's plan does not seem set. He has switched his position on several issues relating to terrorism over the course of his campaign. Clinton mainly wants to continue the policies of President Obama in fighting terror by controlling guns within the U.S. to make it harder for terrorists to get hold of firearms.

The candidates' discussion about race relations was another major part of their talking points during the first debate. The moderator asked the candidates how they will try to stop police violence against African-Americans. Clinton admitted that everyone is subject to racial bias, and the police cannot take all the blame, but she argued that police officers need to be more sure of the nature of a threat before using deadly force. Trump says race relations are as bad as ever and wants to bring back law and order. He is mostly on the police's side, saying they are not to blame.

Trump's tax returns were brought up during the debate as well. He has not yet released his tax returns, which many people take as a sign that either he is cheating on his taxes or that he is not as successful a businessman as he says. Most major news outlets agree that Clinton won this debate, and she seemed better versed on policy.

The second debate ventured more into the scandals that have plagued each of the candidates. The first questions asked were about a recently released videotape of Donald Trump making inappropriate comments about women. Trump apologized, but then dodged the question by switching the topic to how he will defeat ISIS. Trump seemed to do well enough to slow the fallout of his comments in the debate, but it should remain an issue for his campaign, as several prominent Republicans, including former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, denounced his actions and called for him to drop out of the race. The debate became heated when the topic switched to Hillary Clinton's controversial handling of her private email server as Secretary of State. Hillary defended her actions while at the same time admitting that she made a mistake in using a private server. This issue is especially interesting because WikiLeaks has recently released Clinton's emails that were hacked by Russia. Trump argued that the government had not been hard enough on her for her mishandling the emails and said that if he is elected, he will have his attorney general look into her case to see that she is prosecuted. This debate was more heated than the previous one, and both candidates seemed to lose their cool multiple times.

The third debate got back to the issues. The first question was about how the candidates would handle the possible Supreme Court appointments and controversies if elected. Clinton said that she would appoint nominees who would uphold

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Election 2016

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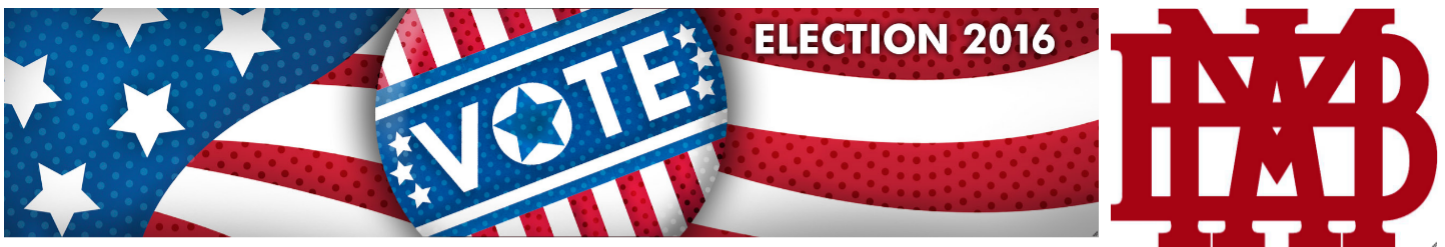
marriage equality and abortion decisions. Trump supported conservative justices who are pro-life and backers of 2nd amendment rights. Clinton backed the 2nd amendment but supported background checks and the closing of loopholes for gun possession. Her policy is in response to growing gun violence in America. Trump accused Clinton of being overly upset over a pro-2nd amendment court decision and continued his backing of the amendment. The next question was about abortion. Trump wants to appoint justices who will back pro-life policies and overturn Roe vs. Wade, a 1973 landmark case establishing a woman's right to abortion.

On the issue of immigration, Trump supported his policy of building a wall and deporting illegal immigrants in response to murders. Trump's policy would be almost impossible to enforce because of its sheer magnitude. Law enforcement would have to find each illegal immigrant, and they would have to be sent out of the United States. Clinton called Trump a "puppet of Putin" when asked about Russia.

The next segment of the debate pertained to the economy. Clinton discussed policies regarding offering free college to low-income families and helping middle-class families have more opportunities. They debated trade policies like TPP and NAFTA, and their merits and downsides. Trump calls NAFTA the worst deal ever because it lost so many jobs, but according to Politifact, the actual killer of those jobs was trade with China. It is especially beneficial for Trump to attack NAFTA because Bill Clinton passed it.

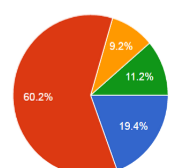
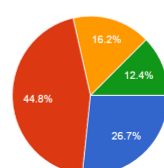
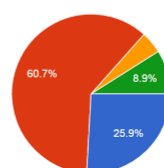
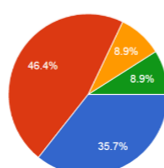
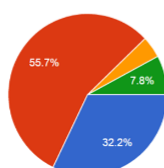
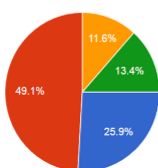
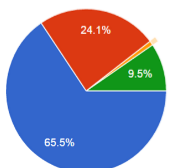
The next topic was Trump's sexual assault allegations and the audiotape of his inappropriate comments. Trump said that his accusers are lying and blamed the Clinton campaign for perpetrating the lie. Clinton attacked him for mocking a disabled reporter, which he denied doing, although it is on tape. This denial was only the most recent one of the statements Trump has made. Next, the moderator brought up Trump's accusations of Clinton's and the media's rigging the election. Trump said that he would have to wait and see if he would accept the results of the election if he loses. This statement is of major concern to some voters and media outlets, as the United States has always enjoyed a peaceful transition of power.

MBA Election Results



	TOTAL VOTES	VOTE SHARE
DONALD TRUMP - REPUBLICAN	373	48.44%
HILLARY CLINTON - DEMOCRAT	258	33.51%
OTHER	79	10.26%
GARY JOHNSON - LIBERTARIAN	60	7.79%
[100% of PRECINCTS REPORTING]		

Faculty/Staff Class of 2017 Class of 2018 Class of 2019 Class of 2020 Class of 2021 Class of 2022



Election 2016

The Debate: An Amazing Experience

By William Hagerty

There was an almost electric feel surrounding every aspect of the first 2016 Presidential Debate. This night was going to be the most watched political debate in history. One we almost didn't make — security was extremely tight, and the security staff was on edge as all the attendees were cleared in a separate building that was remote from the debate hall. As we were being cleared, I spent time with Robert Wood "Woody" Johnson, owner of the NY Jets and other friends of my dad's as we all waited for Security to disperse a protest that blocked the entrance to the debate facility. It took almost an hour for security to handle the protest, and the deadline for entry expired. People began to fret that the debate would start without the audience due to the hard start time for TV. Finally it broke, and we began to move. In all, twenty-four protesters were arrested for lying down in front of the buses that were trying to take us to the debate hall from the check-in building.

As we finally approached the Hofstra Arena, it was incredible how many police officers were there, both outside and inside. Everyone was told to hustle as we had only minutes before the TV lock-down would commence. We walked through a gauntlet of cameras as we entered the hall. As we moved



William Hagerty at the Debate

through the crowd, my dad and I spoke to the boxing promoter, Don King, who was dressed in a red, white, and blue glittered jacket. News crews and cameras filled the room as people from all over the country made their way to their seats. Although more than eighty million people were tuned into the debate, the debate hall was surprisingly small. The floor was crowded, with a large stage in front and rows of broadcast TV booths were in the rear. As we took our seats, Wolf Blitzer of CNN and Megan Kelly of Fox were directly behind us getting prepared before going live. After a welcome by the two Chairmen of the Commission of Presidential Debates,

Debate Moderator Lester Holt advised us not to clap or make noise while the Debate was being held. After this request, there was an awkward silence for about five minutes, and you could feel the tension and suspense in the room. When Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump first walked in, the crowd erupted. People were screaming, hissing, you name it; and then the debate started. The candidates sparred on several topics, including questions related to economy, national security, law and

order, and each candidate's vision for America. The crowd was very energetic and aggressive. One lady behind me kept hissing every time Trump spoke and was a lone clapper for every argument made by her candidate. You could very easily feel that the crowd's emotions in the hall were rising through the night. Along with these supporters, I got to see many celebrities like Mark Cuban, owner of the Spurs and star of the TV show *Shark Tank*. There were Congressmen and Senators, family members of the candidates, famous business-people and TV personalities like Larry Kudlow that we met. Overall, it felt more like we were in a Roman Coliseum attending a gladiator battle than a political debate between candidates.

So much seemed to be riding on the debates with each side hoping that the other side would make a fatal mistake or that their candidate might land a knockout blow. The tension was very high at the debate and stayed high in the arena as the audience eventually became louder and louder. Though the people watching the debate on TV could not hear, the audience at Hofstra became downright noisy. By the last forty-five minutes of the debate, people were cheering, shouting, and hissing.

After the debate was over, we returned to the Knickerbocker Club in Manhattan, and my dad invited me to join the "after-glow" conversation. I had been at the campaign headquarters in Trump Tower earlier that day to hear some of the plans for the evening and even some of the one-liners that were being provided in case an opportune moment arose. It was fascinating to listen to the hopes and thoughts of the afternoon before the debate — and compare that to this late night discussion about what might happen in the weeks ahead as both sides fight to secure a victory. I don't know if there was a better way to experience an event like this. It was truly outstanding.



Election 2016

Current Debates

By: Clay Crews

DEBATE NIGHT



Camp Laney

Camp Laney Overview

By William Curley

Each year, MBA 7th graders have the opportunity to go to Camp Laney, located about three hours from Nashville in Mentone, Alabama. Camp Laney is a three-day retreat, where MBA's newest students learn to be leaders, face their fears, and try new things.



beds and fall asleep to the sound of crickets. In the morning, students wake to birds chirping and even the snores of their fellow cabin mates.

showers, and bed conclude a fun day for students.

On their third and final day at Camp Laney, students wake up to breakfast and a final task. Provided with



Breakfast is the top priority upon awakening. Students are then split into different groups and tackle the ropes for the rest of the day. Students face their fears of heights on the high ropes courses, which include many different opportunities to climb. The courses are called



When the students arrive, they gather in the mess hall and eat lunch. The students are then split into groups. In these small groups, the students participate in low rope games to build leadership and to help the students get to know other students in their grade.

After dinner, students are pitted against each other in an intense game of battle ball. The students divide into teams and quickly learn the importance of teamwork. After several games of battle ball, the students are ready for snack, showers, and bed.

Camp Laney's cabins hold about fourteen students each. Students climb into bunk

the "Climbing Tower," "Kamikaze," and "Pamper Pole." Students who complete the high ropes course receive a wristband in recognition of their effort and accomplishment.

Dinner is the reward for a day on the high ropes course, followed by another round of battle ball. Snack,

cardboard, plastic, tape, and a small knife, students are instructed to build a boat that will carry them across the river. This project is fun but carries with it a lot of uncertainty. Not everyone's boat will float, much less make it across the river. This assignment challenges students to follow directions and to cooperate with each other to make the most river-worthy boat. This year, the best boats seemed to be made into a box with plastic wrapped around the boat to help it float.

At the end of Camp Laney, students head back to Nashville with many fond memories, as well as new friends and closer relationships. It is a wonderful tradition and a great way for 7th graders to kick off their MBA experience.



Camp Laney

Death From Above: The High Ropes Course

By Paul McGinn

One of the highlights of Camp Laney is the High Ropes Course. All six of them were extremely enjoyable and tested our courage. Whenever you successfully complete a High Ropes Course, you are given a silicon bracelet, proving you have done so. Each one of the activities had you strapped into a harness and tested to see if you are brave enough to commit the tasks. The activities were the Bonzai, Pamper Pole, High Traverse, Zip line, Kamikaze, and Rock Climbing.

In Bonzai, you walk across a tightrope while holding onto wires to your sides. Once you have walked across the tightrope, you are latched onto a V-Swing. After you drop off, it's



smooth sailing from there.

The Pamper Pole has you climb up a telephone pole with pegs sticking out of it. There are two platforms, one being higher than the other. From the platforms, you jump out and attempt to grab hold of a trapeze. You will have a much better shot if you climb up to the higher platform,



High Traverse comes from the same family as the Bonzai. The difference here is that there is no V-Swing or tightropes. One tightrope has

several ropes that you can grab onto to help move yourself forward. However, the farther you go, the more spread apart the ropes get from each other. On the other route, you are given one incredibly long rope. You are able to hold onto this rope for the entirety of the tightrope, but it gets smaller the farther you go.

The Zip line is pretty self-explanatory. You climb up a ladder and then onto pegs to reach a platform. You are then attached to the biplane and the rest is your job. I'll

admit, when I engaged in this activity, I was scared out of my mind.

The Kamikaze was the most complex High Ropes Course. You first start off climbing up a cargo net to reach the top, where you'll then find yourself on small platforms. These platforms wobble once you get on them. The farther you get,

the more rickety these platforms get. To finish up Kamikaze, you get attached to a gargantuan V-Swing and take a leap of faith.

Finally, there is Rock Climbing. Like the Zip line, this one speaks for itself. You grab hold of rocks that progressively get smaller the higher you climb. What I found very interesting about the rock wall is that there were several walls you could climb up. If



you wanted a greater challenge, there were other walls for that.

Even though these High Ropes Courses sound great already, I have not even touched upon the best parts

about them yet. Friends were cheering on their friends constantly, which built our comradery. I was very scared at first to do the Zip line, but my friends encouraged me. I was able to pull through because of this encouragement.

When I first got to Camp Laney's High Ropes Course, I was scared out of my mind. I would have done anything to not partake in it. However, after completing each one, I'm glad I did.



Camp Laney

Boats and Battle Ball: Team Building?

By Jon Tarquinio

Camp Laney had two aspects



that I enjoyed very much, our nightly games of battle ball and the boat building competition. Battle ball showed strength in teamwork through athleticism. Our “Build-a-Boat competition” built teamwork through planning and precision, while still involving every member of the team.

To begin, the boat building



competition was very entertaining. We designed, built, and finally raced our boats. In cabin nine, we had some disputes over the design of our boat, but we finally decided on building a completely ordinary rectangular box.

The building of the boat was a cakewalk compared to the design. We had decided not to make any cuts in the boat and just fold the cardboard into a canoe. Once we got to the fireplace, our headquarters for the entire trip, we saw different designs from a triangular box to rafts that were flat and destined to sink. After finally reaching the river, we lined our

boats up, and after considerable hype created by the other cabins, we began the race.

At first, a boat immediately sank, which was essentially the beginning of the end. It was then that we realized all of our boats had major design flaws and at some point during the race, were going to sink. By our third run, we had gained water, and everyone from all teams was laughing as their boats started sinking. We had gained

water and eventually sank on our fifth trip, nine people having gone across the river. Overall, the competition built creativity, boats, teamwork, and our competitive nature.

Our nightly games of battle ball were based on a more athletic form of teamwork. From catching dodge-balls to shooting a three point shot, battle ball is a sport with undeniable teamwork. These plays constructed a sense of brotherhood all throughout our nightly games. My team and I all felt a surge of adrenaline together as we ran from the baseline to the half-court line, grabbing our dodge-balls and preparing to throw. We felt the warm night air in the open gymnasium; we all felt the sweat run down the side of our faces as we prepared to play together as a team, as brothers. The Montgomery Bell Academy Class of 2022 became



much closer through a simple game of battle ball.

Overall, although it took a while for everyone to realize, Camp Laney made all of us bond together, making us a much more connected, closer class of seventh graders that I am honored to call my friends. Camp Laney built teamwork, creativity, and athleticism through two simple activities: battle ball and building boats.



Simon Buenahora

Spirit Week: Five Days of Madness

By Kyle Tavi

Spirit Week is fun, but it is also crazy. This MBA tradition consists of jersey day, college day, dress like a dad day, Camo/USA day, and finally, Big Red day. Each day is an opportunity to show off and flaunt an ability to dress in both the fun and the absurd.

The first of day of Spirit Week is Jersey day, the day to show off which pro team you support, and get in the faces of the supporters of the teams you beat. This year, the jerseys ranged from exotic looking football practice jerseys to homemade "Hillary Clinton" jerseys made from shirts, root beer crates, and



of course, terrible handwriting. During this day, students received praise from their friends and reprimands from coaches for wearing "non-MBA clothes" to their sports.

The second day is College day. Although pretty much the same as Jersey day, this day is where students show support for their favorite college team and disparage their rivals.

The third day, and the one with the most controversy, was "Dress like a Dad" day. Kids came to school decked out in whatever their dads wear, from a t-shirt and sweatpants to full out doctor uniforms. This day was also an excuse to dress casually for some mischievous students, who claimed that what they were wearing was what their dad wore to the gym (AKA shorts and a t-shirt). Some students who didn't participate in the previous two days even decided to wear jerseys and use the excuse that their dad was a fan. Although this day had some pretty questionable outfits, it was fun.

The fourth day of Spirit Week is

Camo/USA day. This day is the craziest, as there were almost no limits besides the color of the outfit. Students came to school in varied attire, such as a USA-colored collared shirt, a hat with streamers, a Captain America suit, and even a full body ghillie suit, which is a type of camouflage used by the army that more or less looks like a big bush.

This day is my personal favorite, as everyone gets to express himself through absurd and erratic "clothing".

The fifth and final day is Big Red day. This day is when everyone wears clothes to support MBA, because Homecoming is after school. The day had less of the crazy as the last four days, but had just as much spirit. Most students wore MBA shorts, shirts, socks, and some even hats or other accessories. Big Red Day wraps up Spirit Week and leads into the Spaghetti Supper and

homecoming.

Overall, Spirit Week was a huge success. It gave students an opportunity to express themselves and show support for their favorite teams. It also garnered lots of excitement and energy that carried over into Homecoming.



Walker Lenderman and his senior Big Brother, Turner Johnson, win big during Spirit Week.



Clay Crews

Debate: Debatably the Best Sport

By Don Pierce

The Novice Policy Debate team has had a spectacular first season this Fall season. Most of the Novice team this year is made of junior schoolers, which is swell because debate is made mostly of high school students, so it is great to see many people wanting to debate in the junior school, and winning. And even if they are not winning, they are trying. This Debate season was made of two tournaments. In one of the tournaments, the Chattahoochee Cougar Classic, Colin Smith and his high school partner Brawner Smith were co-champions. Also, Don Pierce won three rounds and lost two rounds in the Junior Policy division, not continuing into the elimination rounds. At the second tournament, the John's Creek One-Day, Colin Smith and Tully Fitzpatrick won three rounds and lost one, placing ninth in the tournament. Colin was also the ninth best overall speaker



Jon Tarquinio and Thomas Peterson



Brawner Smith '18 and Colin Smith

in the Novice division. Don Pierce won two rounds and lost two. Other seventh grade debaters, such as Jon Tarquinio, did very well for their first and second tournament. Policy Debate starts to speed up in the following season, with a tournament at Michigan right around the corner. We have a good Policy Debate team going into the Winter I season, consisting of Don Pierce, Colin Smith, Thomas Peterson, Sam Meacham, Joseph

McDougald, Jon Tarquinio, Mason Jablonski, Max Buenahora, Will Donelson, Jack Marro, Jeffrey Shaw, Adam Shealy, Adam Wang, and Wilson King. This article reveals that debate should be embraced in the junior school, not seen as the sport where you do not have to do anything. The participation in debate is amazing in the junior school. Keep on debating and Roll Red.



Photos Courtesy of Mr. Robbie Quinn



Advisory Officers 2016-2017

Eighth Grade

Mr. Anderson: Jack Gauldin, Will Bostleman, Mark Pyburn, Jack Spivey

Mr. Brown: Max Giorgio, Breckenridge Curnutte, Will Renkis, Scott Wallace

Dr. Cirillo: John Crawford, Clay Crawford, James Kinard, Michael Spellman

Ms. Ellery: James Murff, Clay Crews, Jed Neal, Colin Tang

Mr. Killian: William Rogers, Trent Lamar, Drew Wilson, Sebastian Garcia

Mr. Kimball: Luke Mrynca, Stokes Myers, Jackson Pickett, Zach Thomas

Mr. McMurray: Andrew Bulgarino, Luke Jackson, Thomas McRae, Stanford Thombs

Mr. Russ: Joseph Bellardo, Ramsay Cole, Nasir Cook, Will Coulthard

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Mr. Spiegel: Adam Garfinkel, Connor Steanson, Thomas Tatro, Jason Zhu, Sam Bartholomew

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Return to the Forbidden Planet

By William Rogers

The MBA theater department is off to a great start. MBA opened up the beginning of the season with the musical *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, which is based on one of Shakespeare's greatest plays, *The Tempest*. The whole performance is



Will Mader and William Rogers

set in space, with doo-wop classics such as "Good Vibrations" by the Beach Boys, and "Who's Sorry Now" by Connie Francis.

Captain Tempest (John Fioravanti) brings his crew and passengers on a routine flight through outer space on the Dream Chaser, when they get pushed off course due to meteors. They end up on a planet that was never on their maps, and only



Some of the cast of the play

inhabited by Doctor Prospero (Peter Taylor), his robot assistant Ariel (Luke Rochford), and his beautiful daughter Miranda (Charlotte Staggs). They are all castaways from Earth, sent away by Prospero's wife Gloria (Kat Trotman). The captain soon welcomes Doctor Prospero aboard the starship, but when Prospero's daughter Miranda comes aboard, everyone, including Captain Tempest, Cookie (the cook of the starship), and the rest of the crew instantly falls in love with her.

The audience soon learns of the new invention made by Doctor Prospero called the X Factor, which is a solution that can create anything using pure matter of the mind. The audience soon learns what it means when they find out that there is a monster attacking the

ship, but it is soon defeated by the crew. Halfway into the battle, we learn that Gloria had been on the flight all along. Meanwhile, Miranda is having a battle of her own to win the love of the captain, who will not budge in showing any affection for her. As soon as Gloria is stuck in a holding cell, she finds a way out by persuading Cookie that she can win him Miranda's hand. She then sneaks out and is able to talk to Prospero and remind him that she is doing it for the good of the people of Earth. The



play takes a twist when Gloria and Prospero leave the starship to save the ship, and soon die. Their daughter Miranda gains the love of the captain and the Dream Chaser is able to fly back to Earth.

Return to the Forbidden Planet is a great musical that leaves audiences happy and on edge for what happens next. It has Sci-Fi, humor, doo-wop, and Shakespeare all mixed together to create a fantastic show that is fun for the audience watching and the cast performing.





Honest Abe

Dear Abe,

What do you find is the best way to keep people from stealing my stuff in the locker room? I can't stop people from taking my socks. I try to leave them near my stuff on the floor and on the bench, but they still disappear somehow.

Thank you,

Sockless 7th Grader

Dear Wise-less in need of the Wise,

As the great scientist Isaac Newton once said, "For every action there's an equal and opposite reaction." To paraphrase it in another sense, if you leave your socks in an all-boys middle school locker room out in public, chances are that you will not be getting them back anytime soon. Also, why do you leave your socks out? You have a locker for a reason. Use it.

Sincerely yours,

Honest Abe

No Man's Sky: Too Good to Be True

By Joseph Datillo

Among all of the Sci-Fi games in the world, developers and gamers thought *No Man's Sky* would be the game of the century. And it's only 2016! *No Man's Sky* is an exploration space game based around the Atlas, a giant machine in the center of the Galaxy that holds all the records of Planet discovery and the records of all players that play the game. It is set in an "infinite procedurally generated universe," according to "Hello Games," maker of *No Man's Sky*. The object of the game is to find this machine in the center of the Galaxy and then . . . Well, no one really knows what happens yet because the first person who finds this machine will probably be featured on



television. To the best of my knowledge, no one has done it yet. The game's makers have taken the "infinite" part of the generated universe seriously.

The game starts out mysteriously. You, as the character, spawn on a random planet somewhere in the galaxy of 18,000,000,000,000 planets. The ship your character owns has broken into pieces. The tutorial is short and sweet, so you have to figure out most of the controls on your own. After the tutorial, you have an interaction with a red orb that plants memories of the atlas into your mind. Then you must find your way to the atlas with very little direction. Along the way you meet new alien species and find new resources to upgrade your ship and multi-tool or trade for "units,"

which is the currency. There are hundreds of new multi-tools to discover and also many ships. Hello Games, the developers, also added in a multiplayer feature, but it is likewise a one in 18,000,000,000,000 chance that you will find someone else in the gigantic map these

developers have provided.

This game was much anticipated all over the world. The game is still great, but when it was released, it fell far short of expectations. Many people wrote reviews about the game. Some were complimentary, and some were hateful. The vast majority of reviews fell in the latter category. Most of the gaming world that heard about this game thought badly about it without having ever played it. I've played the game, I like the game, and I hope more people will buy this game and learn that some of their opinions about *No Man's Sky* were wrong. Reviews aren't everything. I encourage you to play for yourself and see what you think.



Farm Burger

By Mauro Mastrapasqua

Farm Burger has the greatest burger I have ever tasted. It's not even close. Their restaurant at 4013 Charlotte Avenue is the latest addition to multiple locations in California, Georgia, North Carolina, and now Tennessee. The grand opening in Nashville was on September 1, 2016. The restaurant is set apart from other burger joints in many ways. Farm Burger supports and uses the meat of local farms. Their space is unique and not too big, just like their burgers. Whenever I go to new restaurants, I always feel overwhelmed with the boisterous environment -- too many loud people and wait staff trapped in a small space. But in the words of Mr. Eugene Krabs, from *Sponge Bob Squarepants*, "No one goes to a restaurant for atmosphere; they go

for food!" And the food is definitely the draw at Farm Burger. Their beef is fresher and tastes better than any restaurant I have visited.

In my experience, burger joints tend to focus on quantity over quality and serve food of massive proportions, but Farm Burger does exactly the opposite. They are able to provide their delicious food to the consumer in nearly half the time of other joints. When I dined at Farm

raised pork, veggies, salads, and sides. The restaurant also obtains many of its ingredients from local farms, including Tennessee Grass Fed Farm (for pasture-raised pork), Johnson's Honey Farm (for honey), Hatcher Family Dairy (for dairy), Old Spencer Mill (for grits), and Pied Piper (for ice cream).

One downside of the restaurant in my opinion is the absence of multiple varieties of



Burger, I built my own burger for an astounding \$6.75, which is \$1.25 less than their cheapest specialty, "Blackboard Burger." Their prices go to show that Farm Burger is about serving good food; they aren't all in it for the money. I went for the classic cheese, lettuce, pickles, and tomatoes, but I added some FB sauce, a light Ranch-like sauce with traces of Thousand Island. I don't think I've had a burger with sauce of that quality since Burger Up, which is saying something! The menu features 100% grass-fed beef, antibiotic-free chicken, pasture-

milkshakes. Farm Burger offers just three kinds: vanilla, chocolate and a seasonal offering. Places like Burger Republic and Bobbie's Dairy Dip give the consumer a reason to come back because it is hard to narrow down all of the choices. Overall though, the Farm Burger experience was truly unique. The experience included a medium-sized space with a healthy amount of people, great service, an almost addictive sauce, and best of all, the best beef I think I've had in Nashville!





Burger Republic

By Thomas Peterson

Burger Republic was one of Nashville's first gourmet burger establishments when it opened in the Gulch on August 24, 2015. It specializes in fantastic burgers and shakes, with a fun and upscale decor to match. The restaurant is built like a modern garage, with a glass garage door in front. Inside, a rustic wooden decor feels comfortable and homey. But customers don't come to just enjoy the ambiance; Burger Republic boasts some of the best burgers and shakes in the city. In fact, *The Tennessean* has ranked Burger Republic's "S'mores" milkshake as the second best milkshake in the city. And last year, the newspaper ranked the restaurant as the third best place to eat a burger in all of Nashville.

One of the most popular burgers sold by the restaurant is the "Tennessee" burger, which combines 100% Angus beef with maple-glazed Benton's bacon, Jack Daniel's honey bourbon sauce, and Memphis BBQ-dusted onion straws. The "Taco Truck" will wake



up your taste buds with taco-flavored Angus beef, jalapeños, cilantro sour cream, tortilla strips, and habanero jack cheese.

If beef isn't your thing, you can still get a burger. The "Angry Bird" is a fried chicken breast tossed in buffalo sauce and

bleu cheese. Customers can even choose the type of bun on which their burger will be served. Burger Republic offers four types: brioche, whole wheat, gluten-free, and pretzel. This food may be bad for your arteries, but it is satisfying, inventive, and downright delicious. Burger Republic has really thought outside of the bun, with some crazy combinations of burgers and monstrous shakes. While the menu is definitely burger-centric, there is something for everyone here. The restaurant offers an array of salads, including the Ahi Tuna Salad with rice noodles and ginger-

lime dressing, and the Harvest Salad, with chicken, grapes, apples, almonds, feta and pumpkin seeds. Every main course is better when combined with Tater Tot Fondue, which, as its name suggests, is a combination of yummy fried tater tots with a four-cheese fondue sauce and more Benton's bacon. Last, but definitely not least, are the shakes. The "S'mores" shake is divine, but so is "Assassination by Chocolate (ABC)." It is made of Godiva chocolate, chocolate ice cream, and chocolate whipped cream. And if burgers and salads aren't your thing, Burger Republic also offers wings, nachos, and even crab dip.

Given the number of burger restaurants that have recently popped up across the city, Burger Republic definitely stands apart from the rest. In addition to their location in the Gulch, Burger Republic has restaurants in Lenox, Mt. Juliet, and Murfreesboro.



Burger Republic's Tennessee Burger

Stranger Things

WARNING!!! SPOILERS

By Lee Loving

Stranger Things is a Netflix original series made by the Duffer Brothers. The show is set in a town called Hawkins, Indiana in 1983. It stars Winona Ryder, and an excellent cast of child actors, consisting of Finn Wolfhard (Mike), Gaten Matarazzo (Dustin), Millie Bobby Brown (Eleven), Caleb McLaughlin (Lucas), Natalia Dyer (Nancy), Charlie Heaton (Jonathan), and last but not least Noah Schnapp (Will). Winona Ryder plays Joyce, the mother of William.

The story begins with the



The Kids and Eleven

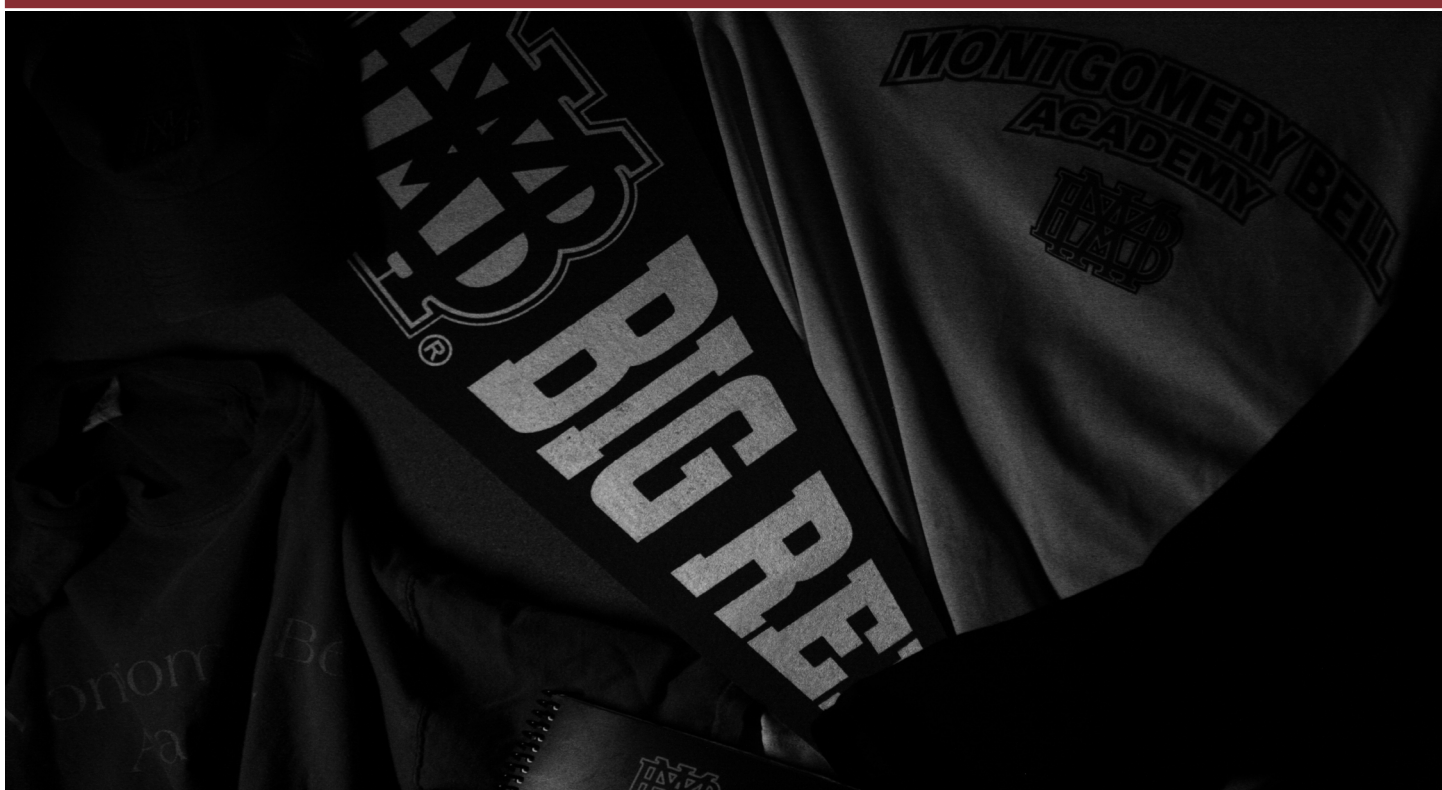
elusive Demogorgon, a human-like figure with six jaws, captures Will, who is then taken to the Upside Down—an exact copy of the real world, but deserted and inhabited by the Demogorgon and its victims. The characters have to find Will, but they need some help from Chief Hopper (David Harbour), and their science teacher. The kids end up finding a little girl, whose name is actually Eleven. In the end we all find out that Eleven has some sort of telekinetic powers, and somehow ripped the portal to the Upside



The Demogorgon

Down open. Eleven has to get in a very salty Sensory-Deprivation pool. The pool transports her to the Upside Down, and she can see the demogorgon, but it cannot see her. Eleven helps the kids find Will, but Eleven is being chased by the evil Dr. Martin Brenner, who has been giving tests to Eleven to find out how to wield her powers. In the last episode, Eleven has to sacrifice herself to save Will, the kids, and to close the portal to the Upside Down. Though all the kids are safe, Will is caught in the end spitting up a demogorgon egg, or what looks like an egg.

There are still many secrets to uncover in the upcoming Season Two which does not have a definite release date. Season Two is said to be more focused on the horror element of the show. This focus will include more gore and jump-scares. The Duffer Brothers have set up an excellent predecessor to the next season by leaving cliffhangers, such as Will vomiting up the so-called “demogorgon baby,” and we will see if Eleven somehow manages to come back to life.



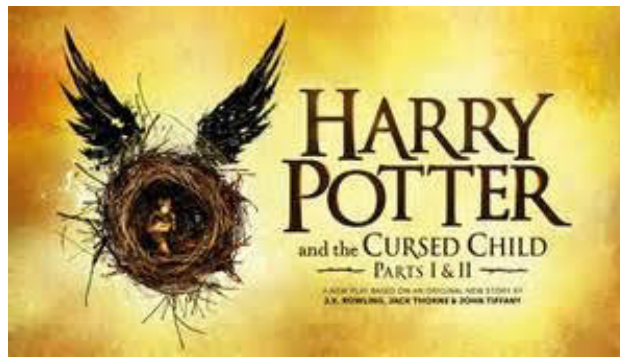
The Cursed Child

By Kyle Tavi

To Read or Not To Read, That is the Question.

There are many new books coming out that are causing lots of talk, but among them, one in particular stands out. This book, *The Cursed Child* by J.K. Rowling, has caused quite a commotion. The *Cursed Child* is the eighth book in the renowned series of *Harry Potter*. Following the previous seven books, each of which are among the most successful books of all time, *The Cursed Child* carried the highest of expectations. The question was: Could the book live up to those expectations?

The answer is equivocal. One strike against *The Cursed Child* is that it is only partly written by J.K. Rowling, as she co-wrote it with John Tiffany and Jack Thorne. The book is also very different from Rowling's other *Potter* books, because it is written in the form of a play. Now, for some people, this may be seen as a benefit. But in this



form, the book loses all depth, instead relying on the obvious actions of the characters.

Another negative aspect of *The Cursed Child* is that Scorpius Malfoy, the son of evil Draco Malfoy, is the main character. This turn is surprising since the Malfoys and the Potters have always been enemies. Fans of Harry Potter have always enjoyed cheering for this good and noble character. Scorpius Malfoy proves himself to be different from his family, but the central focus on him is still contrary to the rivalry and hatred of the Malfoys that was built up in the last seven novels. As is to be expected, Scorpius was sorted into the House of Slytherin. But a surprise is in store for readers, because so is Albus Potter, one of the sons of Harry Potter. Albus is Harry's youngest and most incompetent son. He is picked on for his magic abilities, or lack thereof. He is not

as brave as his father was and despises the attention that his father's fame and notoriety brings. The decision to place him in Slytherin has drastic consequences.

On the positive side, there are multiple characteristics that make reading the book worthwhile. Although *The Cursed Child*

varies from the other novels, it provides much more detail about what happened after the end of the seventh book. With the demise of Voldemort, there is a new sense of action and adrenaline, even though the book appears to have no new antagonist for much of the story. Scorpius and Albus go on their adventures unknowing and completely by accident, unlike Harry, who knew that his enemy was Voldemort almost from the very beginning. But the story of Delphi, the new antagonist and a psychotic murderer, takes a while to unfold.

Overall, *The Cursed Child* is a mixed bag that will strike readers differently. The format and the characters have created lots of controversy. What will J.K. Rowling do next with her legendary story?

Fall Semester Exam Schedule

Friday, December 9 - History

Monday, December 12 - Science

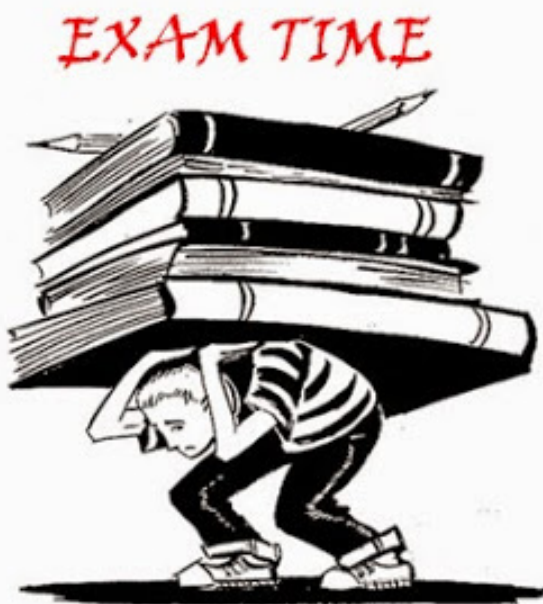
Tuesday, December 13 - Math

Wednesday, December 14 - English

**Thursday, December 15 - Latin/
Grammar-Vocab**

Friday, December 16 - None

**The 7th Grade Movie is Friday,
December 16!**



Overwatch

By Will Renkis

Overwatch is a unique six-versus-six team-based shooter game in which teams must work together to achieve victory. Produced by Blizzard, it is the company's first original intellectual property release in seventeen years. After its release, the game was selling extraordinarily well. The backstory of the game is primarily responsible for its high sales in the market. The backstory explains the events that are happening in the game, and the events that have already taken place. Also, the maps in the game are extremely detailed, revealing how much work the creators put into the game and helping the player to feel immersed in it.

The game also has sold well because of its characters, which hail from different parts of the world and have unique personality traits. These characters include McCree, who is a cowboy from the American West, and Genji, from South Asia,



who is half robot and half human. Also, each character has different roles and abilities, making each character essential to the creation of a strong team with each one helping out the team in a different way. Additionally, the characters in the game are mostly balanced, which makes characters neither too weak nor too powerful. In total there are twenty-two characters from which players can choose, and more are expected.

There are currently four game modes, including "escort," "assault," "hybrid," and "control." In escort mode, attackers move a payload to a delivery point, while the defenders try to stop it until time runs out. In assault mode, attacking and defending teams attempt to take or defend capture points across

the map. Hybrid mode is a mix where the game starts with an assault and ends with an escort section. In control mode, two attacking teams fight over objective areas in a best-of-three format. When a player joins a match, a mode is randomly selected, and players are either attackers or defenders. Players then attempt to complete the mode's objective to become victorious. Another aspect of the game includes items called loot boxes, which can be obtained by leveling up in the game or by spending real money. When players open up loot boxes, they can get different cosmetics and items for different characters, ranging from common to extremely rare items. What's nice is that these items do not affect game play, so the game remains fair for everyone.

Overwatch is an amazing game, particularly unique for a shooter game. The developers have thought outside the box to create an exceptional game that has changed the gaming industry forever. The word "masterpiece" is not an overstatement for *Overwatch*.

TOH Meetings are every Tuesday in M21!



Dark Souls 3

By Rex Allsep

Available on XBOX ONE, PS4, and PC
Reviewed on PS4



Dark Souls 3 is a fantastic game. Were it more approachable for new players, it could be called a masterpiece. An oppressive and depressing atmosphere pervades the game. Brutally unforgiving combat is paired with clever design of game levels to create an experience unlike any other. When I cleared the game's predetermined hurdles, a huge feeling of accomplishment followed. I got into a rhythm of exploration, repeated failure, and eventual success. This cycle is reinforced by the game's unique approach to death. Bonfires, or "checkpoints," dot each of the game's sprawling environments. Once activated, the player is reborn at the bonfire after death, at the cost of losing

all of their souls (a currency used for purchasing items and leveling up) and regenerating all previously defeated monsters. If players feels up to the challenge, they can try to retrieve their lost souls at their point of death. Hard-earned currency is constantly at risk because of the danger every enemy introduces to an encounter.

Moments of peace can be found in a small maze-like hub filled with helpful shopkeepers and merchants. However, many characters can be missed or ignored. Players are urged to keep a guide handy when attempting their quest lines. Although equipment and abilities can be upgraded, the game's progression is largely dependent

on the player's accumulation of skill that comes with practice.

A welcome addition to the single player game is the seamless integration of multiplayer. Player allies can be summoned, but enemies can invade your game when someone joins you in cooperation, leading to intense fights between multiple players that are wholly unforgettable. I have often had more fun messing with other people than actually playing the game as intended. The robust multiplayer option gives *Dark Souls 3* an incredible amount of longevity with duels, informal battles, and trickery. Occasional unfair ambushes can be frustrating, but as long as you maintain a positive attitude, they won't interfere with your enjoyment of the game.

If you have the patience, finesse, and skill to embark on this journey of attrition, it is well worth \$60. Once again a word to the wise: Be sure to keep the online guide handy.

FIFA 17 - The Journey

By Andrew Bulgarino



FIFA 17 is one of EA's most recent releases and one of its most innovative. It features a new game mode called The Journey. This mode allows you to play and go through the story as Alex Hunter, a young teen who seeks to play English football at the professional level. He desires to be like his grandfather, who played football in the English Premier League. Players are able to choose the team in the Premier League for whom they want to play. Alex Hunter's friend, Gareth Walker, will also sign for the same club. This game mode breaks away from the traditions of the old FIFA games, for it introduces a mode with more of a story aspect than just pure game play. However, this is

not the only new addition to *FIFA 17*.

There are many new changes to the game. The graphics are extremely precise and detailed, as the designers used real-life players as their guide for the faces and bodies of the players in game. In the Kick Off mode, there is a new option to play two legs, which is where two matches are kept with an aggregate (total) score. In the Career mode, the player can either choose to be a player or manager. As a manager, players control not just the team, but also send scouts and agents to find youth talent around the world or get deals with sponsors. The Skill Games

features updated challenges like penalties. The penalty system itself is completely different from *FIFA 16*. It allows players to change the player's run up to the ball, as well as the amount of power and direction of the shot. This is more realistic than the previous game play, as the old penalties were completely the same no matter what player was shooting.

Ultimate Team is part of the game as well. It allows players to configure their own team from the bottom to the top. The team starts off in the low divisions with inexperienced players. To improve the team, new players must be obtained through purchasing packs and buying players on auction markets. It is a pretty difficult game mode but is good for the player that wants an equal amount of strategy and game play aspect.

Overall, *FIFA 17* is a creative and originaive game with a fantastic new game mode and ground breaking graphics that anyone interested in sports video games will enjoy.

Rogue One: Too Predictable, yet Highly Possible

By Mauro Mastrapasqua

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story will be released on December 16 of this year. From the few trailers that have been released, we know that Jyn Erso, a rogue Rebel soldier (Felicity Jones), is the main character, and she has to work with Cassian Andor, a Rebel intelligence officer (Diego Luna) to steal the plans for the first Death Star. The film is set between *Star Wars Episodes 3* and *4*. In the story, Anakin Skywalker has just been retrieved by Emperor Palpatine after his battle with Obi-Wan on Mustafar at the end of *Revenge of the*



Sith, so Darth Vader will most likely be seen in *Rogue One* (Darth Vader has also been seen in *Rogue One* trailers). But there is a lot more to this story, and all we can do is guess until December 16th. But here are some theories about what *Rogue One* will bring.

One theory is that Jyn Erso is Rey's mother, which is completely possible, but I think it is too obvious. Also, *The Force Awakens* takes place close to fifty years after *Rogue One*, so I do not think that there will be many parallels between them. However, it is more likely that there are parallels between *Rogue One* and *A New Hope*, considering that their events take place in that order. According to Mr. Sunday Movies on *YouTube*, Jyn Erso could be the pilot at the end of *A New Hope*

that collides with Vader and explodes, which causes Vader to spin off-course. The pilot's face was not visible because of a mask, which I think was done intentionally by creator George Lucas, so that later

Star Wars writers could use it for a new character. The pilot ends up dying, which explains why she was not seen in later movies. A final theory, according to *YouTube* channel *The Stupendous Wave*, is that a hooded figure stepping into the Bacta Tank in the trailer could be Emperor Palpatine. This theory is by far my favorite. It is supported by the guards standing near the Bacta Tank. These guards are wearing the exact uniform that Palpatine's Royal Guards wear. This theory is perfectly reasonable, but so are many others. Fan theories about the *Star Wars* movies and how they are connected are just as enjoyable as the movie itself and get me hyped for the movie's release. They can get pretty insane, but that is what makes them so enjoyable.



Tribute: Jose Fernandez and Arnold Palmer

By Bo Wilbanks

On September 25, 2016, Miami Marlins pitcher Jose Fernandez died at the age of 24 during a boating accident. Arguably one of the most electrifying

and talented players in the MLB, the death was a tragic loss for the Miami Marlins, all

baseball enthusiasts, and the city of Miami. Fernandez, a Cuban refugee, tried to reach America multiple times as a child and was even imprisoned in Cuba before he was able to successfully immigrate to the



United States. On his final voyage to America, he saved his mother from drowning, not even knowing it was her. In baseball, Fernandez

was named to the 2013 All Star Team and was also named Rookie of the Year. Fernandez was a great player and an even better man, and he will be missed.

On the same day, September 25, 2016, Arnold Palmer passed away at the age of 87. One of the best golfers of all time, Palmer is well known for drawing massive

crowds at events who were called "Arnie's Army." He was also known for his signature namesake drink, a mix of lemonade and iced tea. Palmer won ninety-two professional golf tournaments in his career. His passing was days before the Ryder



Cup, a competition between the best players from the USA and the best players from Europe. Palmer, an American, had been a superstar player in many of these tournaments. America ended up winning the Ryder Cup for the first time in eight years. The trophy was brought to Arnold Palmer's funeral to honor his memory. Thousands attended the funeral, including golf stars Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson, Bubba Watson, Phil Mickelson, Rickie Fowler, and 2016 Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III. Arnold Palmer was one of the best golfers of all time, and his legacy will live on forever.

1929 - 2016



"The most rewarding things you do in life are often the ones that look like they cannot be done." -Arnold Palmer

Colin Kaepernick Speaks Without Words

By Patrick Pergande

Colin Kaepernick took a stand for racial inequality on August 14, 2016. Kaepernick was unnoticed and alone for his first two stands, or, more appropriately, sits, in support of the "Black Lives Matter" movement. Kaepernick chose to kneel during the playing of the National Anthem at the outset of the San Francisco 49er's games to protest police brutality against African Americans.

After the 4th preseason week and the start of week one of the NFL season, players from every team were following Kaepernick's lead and protesting disparate treatment of African Americans by kneeling or sitting during the National Anthem.



L - R - Eric Reid and Colin Kaepernick

Kaepernick told the media, "This stand wasn't for me. This is because I'm seeing things happen to people that don't have a voice, people that don't have a platform to talk and have their voices heard, and effect change. So I'm in the position where I can do that and I'm going to do that for people that can't."

Kaepernick's actions have drawn support from others in the NFL. Marshawn Lynch, the former Seattle Seahawks running back, stated, "I just hope people open up their eyes to see there's a real problem going on, and something needs to be done for it to stop." With the NFL season more than halfway finished, some players from every team have been sitting, kneeling, or raising their fists during the anthem to show their support of racial

equality.

But not everyone is in support of Kaepernick's message. Some teams are standing together with linked arms, even with members of the opposing team, to demonstrate their belief that they are privileged to live in the United States. Some claim that Kaepernick's actions show that he does not know how fortunate he is to be an American. Other critics of Kaepernick say that he is disrespecting the military, and that he should go fight and see what it means to honor and defend the United States' flag. As an editorial in *Sports Illustrated* argued, "The very reason the criticism that Kaepernick disrespected the troops is unfair is because his critics are projecting what the national anthem means to them. There is no objective meaning of the anthem, and Kaepernick is perfectly legitimate in protesting what it means to him." As Kaepernick continues to kneel, he continues to speak symbolically for his cause.

Sources: <http://www.sbnation.com/2016/9/11/12869726/colin-kaepernick-national-anthem-protest-seahawks-brandon-marshall-nfl>
<http://www.si.com/nfl/2016/08/29/colin-kaepernick-national-anthem-protest-49ers>

Grandparents Day

is

Tuesday, November 22nd!

Bring your best smile and your coat and tie to welcome your grandparents to the campus.



College Football Expectations

By James Kinard and
Bo Wilbanks

The quest for the playoffs has begun, and the 2016-2017 College Football season is officially underway. At the time of this article, with their playoff championship behind them, the undefeated Alabama Crimson Tide has the number one rank, followed by #2 Clemson, #3 Oklahoma, and #4 Florida State. While many teams have high expectations for their season, none were higher than Tennessee with all of their returning starters and arguably the best quarterback in the SEC, Joshua Dobbs. Many even had Tennessee winning the SEC and the College Football Playoff! While every season has its surprises and disappointments, none have been more disappointing than Notre Dame, which



is off to a 2-4 early losing season. Led by quarterback DeShone Kizer, who will be playing on Sundays for many years in the future, and MBA alum Alex Bars, the Irish seemed destined for success, but have yet to live up to the hype.

The surprise of the year has been Lamar Jackson and the Louisville Cardinals. Although they were defeated by an accomplished Deshaun Watson and the Clemson team, the Cards' explosive offense has caused mass chaos for the rest of the country.

The Heisman race is heating up and through the halfway point of this 2016 college football season, Louisville

QB Lamar Jackson seems like a lock for the award. Still, players like Clemson QB Deshaun Watson, Ohio State QB J.T. Barrett, Washington QB Jake Browning, Houston QB Greg Ward Jr., and Michigan LB Jabrill Peppers could give Lamar a run for his money coming down the stretch. Two dark horse candidates for the Heisman are San Diego State RB Donnell Pumphrey and Alabama QB Jalen Hurts. The season is not over, and there is a lot of good football to come.

NBA Preview

By Will Coulthard

The NBA season is off with a bang! The heavily favored Warriors surprisingly lost their first game to Kawhi Leonard and his prepared San Antonio Spurs. Although they lost, with leaders like Steph Curry and Draymond on the team, they are sure to come back even better than before. On the East Coast, the Cavaliers started right where they left off in a dominating win over the New York Knicks on opening night in Quicken Loans arena. Dark-horse teams with a chance at making it deep into the playoffs this



year seem to be the Timberwolves and the Celtics. They both have depth, young talent, and things looking up for their franchises. These teams will be fun to watch this year, but to win they will have to overcome the Warriors and Cavaliers—the teams

to beat in each conference. Off the court is the dispute over kneeling during the National Anthem. Commissioner Adam Silver has expressed his hopes that the players will respect the flag and find other ways to protest, which many speculate is what will happen. Another question fans are having this year is if the loaded Clippers

will ever be able to overcome their playoff game and injury woes that seem to be a reoccurring theme. If they can stay healthy, they have a legitimate chance of making it back to the Western Conference Semifinals, where they were defeated by the Rockets two years ago. The Rockets, however, seem to be on a downward spiral with the absence of rim-protector Dwight Howard, and a system run by offensive-minded James Harden. And finally, the NEW New York Knicks, who have added players like Derrick Rose, Courtney Lee, and Joakim Noah to add to their stars Carmelo Anthony and rookie phenom Kristaps Porzingis. With high expectations for each team, the NBA season looks to be an exciting one.

Nashville Predators 2016-17 Season Preview

By Bo Wilbanks

After losing to the San Jose Sharks in a Game 7 showdown in last year's Western Conference Semifinals, the season ended in disappointment and excitement. The Preds gained valuable experience from this playoff run. With potential young stars like Kevin Fiala (56) and Viktor Arvidsson (38) and experienced stars like Roman Josi (59) and Mike Fisher (12)] leading the team, the Preds' future looked very bright. The future became even brighter on June 28 when the



Predators completed arguably the biggest trade ever, trading away captain Shea Weber to the Montreal Canadiens for younger and explosive P.K. Subban (76). They also made small signings in free agency, signing defenseman Yannick Weber (7) and Matt Carle (25). The Preds have set themselves up for success, showing that they are not afraid to make risks and are aggressive when it comes to trades with Subban and trading away a future star in Seth Jones to the Columbus Blue Jackets for offensive star Ryan Johansen (92).

As for the expectations, expect the Preds to be very consistent behind seasoned veterans Pekka Rinne (35) and goal scorer James Neal (18). While the Preds have been known as a defensive team in the past, these Preds can play great offense as well, led by sniper Filip Forsberg (9), Craig Smith (15), and Colin Wilson (33). Nevertheless, the defense is still the



best in the league with Subban, Josi, Ryan Ellis (4), and Mattias Ekholm (14). Under Coach Peter Laviolette, one could argue this is the most complete team under his tutelage and is destined for success.

A reasonable expectation for the Predators this year is the Western Conference Finals or the Stanley Cup Finals. Though the hype is surrounding Preds, I still believe that they need one more offensive threat if they want to win the Cup this year. The Preds are still talented enough to get through the year, and the boys should have a great year.



MLB Recap

By Scott Wallace

The 2016 Major League Baseball season was a fantastic, unpredictable, and rapidly changing jumble of baseball. The National League's division winners coasted to their titles basically the whole season. The three division-winning teams were the Chicago Cubs, Washington Nationals, and the Los Angeles Dodgers. With a stud of a lineup, the Cubs won 103 games, the most in the league. Coming off one of the best postseason performances by any player, Daniel Murphy lead the Nationals to the NL East title over his former team, the Mets, with an impressive 95 wins. The LA Dodgers won the NL West title with the help of Clayton Kershaw, the star pitcher, and Corey Seager, an impressive young talent. It is obvious that the Cubs were the best team in the National League. The Cubs had a record-breaking five players from their roster that were on the All-Star team this year. On the AL side, the Cleveland Indians, Boston Red Sox, and the Texas Rangers won their divisions. The Indians were one of the surprise teams this year, ending the regular season with a strong 94 wins and the AL Central Division title.



Mike Napoli made a very positive impact for the team at first base and in the batter's box. The Red Sox ended the year with 93 wins. Their team was made up of players like Mookie Betts, Dustin Pedroia, and David Ortiz who was playing in his final season. The number one team in the AL was the Rangers who had 95 wins thanks to the veteran leadership of Adrian Beltre. The injury-ridden New York Mets grinded

out the #1 Wild Card spot in the NL with a strong end to the season, while the Giants went ice cold for the whole second half of the season barely earning the #2 spot, leaving the Cardinals in the dust at #3. In the AL, there was a battle between Baltimore, Toronto, Seattle, and Detroit but the Toronto Blue Jays got the first AL Wild Card position, and the Baltimore Orioles got the second position. Mookie Betts and Jose Altuve are the two front-runners for AL MVP, while Kris Bryant has pretty much locked up the National League MVP award. Some of the Cy Young Award contenders include Rick Porcello and Corey Kluber for the AL, and Jon Lester and Max Scherzer for the NL award. Manager of the Year will most likely be Buck Showalter for the AL, and for the NL, either Dusty Baker from the Nationals, or Dave Roberts from LA. With the playoffs in full bloom, the World Series is set. The two Wild Card

games have been completed with a Giants game winning hit and a Blue Jays walk-off over the Orioles. In the division series, David Ortiz's career came to an end after the Red Sox were swept by the Cleveland Indians. Also in the AL, the Toronto Blue Jays pulled off an unpredictable sweep over the #1 seeded Rangers which advanced the team to the American League Championship Series. In the National league, the Cubs took care of the Giants while the Dodgers snuck by the Washington Nationals in a Win-or-go-home Game 5. In the two championship series, the Cubs soared past the Dodgers after the slow start to go to the World Series for the first time since 1945, and the Indians easily took down the Toronto Blue Jays to go to their first World Series since 1997.

The World Series came down to clutch pitching between pitchers like Jon Lester, Jake Arrieta, and Cory Kluber. Although the Indians are a great team, the Cubs have an overpowering offense and defense with superstars like Kris Bryant and Javier Baez. The Cubs will win their first World Series since 1908 in five games, and Javier Baez will have a stellar series and he will win the World Series MVP. Well, that prediction was sort of right and sort of wrong. The Cubs did pull off a miraculous comeback after a 3-1 deficit and a ten-inning Game 7 that came down to the wire, Ben Zobrist was the MVP for his stellar play, and the Cubs are finally World Series Champs for the first time since 1908.

JS Cross Country

By Will Coulthard

The MBA junior school Cross Country team had extremely high expectations coming into the 2016 season off a stifling HVAC victory the year before. Many of the top fifteen that were in last year's team were returning, such as top runners Luke Mryncza and Bode Segers.



Adam Garfinkel was looking for a comeback from last year's injury. The first three meets were astounding wins for the Big Red team over teams like Ensworth and CPA. The Big Red Runners met their first challenge against a highly talented USN team. We came in second place overall, even though Luke got first place individually. After that, we battled at St. Matthews, another team loaded with talented runners. The Big Red team

again placed second. The last two meets were at the USN River Campus. In the first one, the Big Red again lost to both USN and St. Matthews with Bode Segers and Luke Mryncza in the top 5 five. In the HVAC championship, the Big Red had an excellent showing, placing third overall. Their top five runners were all in the top twenty-five, and Luke got a personal record of 11:14.33 and Adam Garfinkel with a great 12:01.47.

After a successful season like this one, the coaches and seventh graders look forward to yet another great year in 2017.

Undefeated On the Water

By Mauro Mastrapasqua

The 2016 Junior School Crew Season was a season to remember! We had seven eighth graders and twelve seventh graders for a grand total of a whopping nineteen Junior Schoolers. With our returning coaches Coach Valentine and Coach Ewing, along with our new coach Coach Onstott, our team was unstoppable. Each grade would get two days on the water and two days of conditioning per week. Coach Valentine and Coach Onstott would typically go out on the water. There we learned how to dock, rig, and row a boat. Our main focuses were learning



the slide positions and keeping a consistent time with the Stroke Seat, or Eight Seat (usually me) next to the coxswain in the stern. Since everybody was backwards, the Port rowers would look at Eight Seat to keep in time, and the Starboard rowers would look at Seven Seat, who would repeat whatever the stroke seat did.

Coach Ewing was our land coach. He would motivate us to row harder and faster by comparing us to high-school teams, giving us

Nashville history lessons, and by far the team favorite, presidential debates. To kick off our first full year with a dock at the Vanderbilt Yacht Club, we had the privilege of competing against the Nashville Juniors Rowing Club on the Cumberland River for the Music City Head Race on October 1. This regatta was one of the first (and

by far the largest) Junior School races in the history of our team. There were local high schools and clubs, and colleges like Tennessee, Georgia, Vanderbilt, and others. After a full week of preparation, our crew was ready for the regatta. Coxed by junior Mac Roberts, we placed first out of two with Mauro Mastrapasqua, Evan Williams, Lee Loving, Devan Durrett, Reed Ruccio, Austin Vaughn, John Gray Egbert, and Austin Roth.

The season was way too short for all that our group accomplished. During the Music City Head Race, our boat could collectively feel and maintain a solid rhythm, which took a great deal of time to nail down. Our season was definitely unforgettable with our stellar coaching squad and a diverse group of guys' rowing together to make each other better team members.



The 2016 Microbe Crew Team

MBA 7th Grade Football Season

By Nicky Bennett

The MBA football team faced many challenges and had many accomplishments during their season. The 7th grade football team had a good record with four wins and two losses. The head coach of the seventh grade football team was Coach Story, and



The 2016 Seventh-Grade Football Team

were prepared and went out there and gave it our best. Some of the challenges we had to face were

faster, which was eventually going to make us be better players. As a team we also had many accomplishments



when we lost to BA. We all had a choice of giving up on the season and not trying to beat them again. Instead, we all kept our heads high and beat them the next time we played them in a very close game.

Another challenge that the team faced was



he was an excellent coach, who made the whole team better by pushing us to do our best and telling us to never give up. On the first day of practice we did not really know one another, but at the end of the season, we all knew each other and had great team chemistry.

Throughout the season all of us were improving because of the hard work and effort put that each one of us put into practice. When it was time for our games, we

at the end of every practice when we had to run sprints and do conditioning, which was not easy. By the time we finished the sprints, we all had grown stronger and

like beating BA or getting through sprints. By completing these accomplishments, we had a very successful season. The teams that

MBA 7th grade football team beat are BA, CPA, Lipscomb Academy, and Mount Juliet. The MBA football team was very successful and faced many challenges and accomplished them. I hope that we can have another great season next year.

Photos Courtesy of Mrs. Carolyn Thombs



Team 122

By Bo Wilbanks

The Big Red eighth graders took to the football field six times this year, ready to battle each team. Games were a way for the group of boys to release their energy from their day at school which involved nearly impossible Earth Science quizzes and everything-but-chicken-patty lunches.

Team 122 had the chance to wear red again this year. Lead by the captains, Mark Pyburn (quarterback), Zak Herbstreit (fullback and linebacker), Ethan Lilly (offense and defensive line), and Colyer Haddock (offense and defensive line), the team went 2-4 this season.

In their first game, the Big Red traveled to Farragut on a Saturday morning. MBA put up a fight, but they lost 28-21 in a one-



possession game at the last second. Once again, the team traveled to play Mt. Juliet. The score went back and forth the whole game, but again MBA lost 18-14 on a last second play that fell incomplete. The Big



Red then went to play in Lipscomb's house and came up with a 28-12 win. Kicker Andrew Bulgarino was 4-for-4 in extra points in the game. MBA took

on a talented Fulton next, but got destroyed 34-7. After a tough loss, Team 122 had to go to BA and play a highly skilled and impressive team. The Big Red put up a fight in the first quarter but lost 35-0. The Big Red took on the CPA Lions for their last game on a Thursday night,

under the lights and in the varsity stadium. MBA was inspired and determined to win and had a great week of practice behind Dan Gaw, Mason Skeeters, a healed Patrick Wilk, who was recovering from an arm injury, and the captains. They were pushed hard by scout team monsters

James Kinard, Ramsay Cole, John Crawford, and Jack Gauldin who for sure got the starters ready for



a show down. The Big Red fought very hard, and defeated the CPA Lions 14-7 for an emotional end to an up-and-down season. Team 122 showed lots of promise and is ready for high school football!

Photos Courtesy of Mrs. Carolyn Thombs



Team 122--The 2016 Eighth-Grade Football Team

A Reader's Guide to Junior School Rifle

By Tripp Chamblin

After rigorous training at the beginning of the school year, the Junior School rifle squad began to compete in matches. All Junior Schoolers at MBA shoot in the Sporter Division; any middle or high schooler can shoot with certain equipment, so our rifle team shoots against very experienced shooters in their matches. For the first match, Will Brownie, Tripp Chamblin, Max Giorgio, Bennett MacCurdy, and Will Renkis were driven out to Mt. Juliet High School for a 3x20 match, where shooters compete in three positions. The shooters shoot twenty shots into a target ten meters away in the positions prone, standing, and kneeling in that

order, which means that shooters shoot sixty shots into a very small target, taking about an hour-and-a-half to shoot all of the positions. Our sporter team uses lead pellets (that are about the size of bbs), which the rifle propels with compressed air. Shooters use circular iron sights to line up their rifle with the black portion of a target. They slowly pull the trigger in order to shoot the center of the target. Shooting the center of the target gives shooters a score of ten for that shot, and the further a shot is from the center, the lower the shooter's score will be, with a minimum of zero. Because of this scoring system, shooters in a 3x20 match have the possibility of shooting a score of 600. Most targets are paper, and shooters use scopes to see their shots down the range, but MBA has a special electronic targeting system that allows shooters to shoot in the same place and see their shots on a computer screen that is next to every lane on the range. A very similar system is used in professional shooting events like the Olympics.

MBA came in seventh place at Mt. Juliet. In the next match at (Mt. Juliet), MBA shot against Lebanon High, Hendersonville High, and Mt.

Juliet High in a forty shot standing match. Will Brownie, Tripp Chamblin, Max Giorgio, and Bennett Maccurdy all shot in this match, and MBA came in third place, with Tripp Chamblin shooting in second place individually. The next match MBA competed in was a postal match, where schools from all over the country shoot a 3x20 at their home ranges, and all the teams mail in their results to find a winner. All members of the sporter team participated in this match, but the results are still not back yet.

The last match of the first quarter was the MBA Rifle Classic, one of the biggest matches of the year. Teams from all over the country came to our campus and filled the gym and rifle range. This match lasted two days and hosted both sporter and precision shooters who use more expensive equipment. All of the sporter team competed, and they did very well even though nobody made the podium. They have represented MBA very well throughout the first quarter, so make sure to cheer on the team (probably in spirit because rifle isn't exactly a spectator sport) as they continue to improve during the year.



The 2016 Microbe Rifle Team

Junior School Tennis

By Scott Wallace

The 2016 Junior School tennis season recently wrapped up this fall, and it certainly was not a disappointment. The team started out the year with an almost effortless victory over USN, with a score of 5-0. The tennis team then played their second out-of-conference match of the year against Baylor. MBA came out on top again with an 11-1 win. Maybe the toughest match of the year came next against the CPA Lions, but the



team fought hard and finished with a 4-1 win. After this match, the successful group beat Brentwood Academy, Lipscomb Academy, Ensworth, and Grace Christian. To top off the regular season, they won their final match against Battle Ground Academy. During conference play in the regular season, the tennis team went 34-1 in individual scoring matches. The final outing of the season for the team was the HVAC tournament. The team showed up with Witt Grana at #1 singles, Kinton Lewis at #2 singles, Scott Wallace at #3, Eman Barrett and Patrick Pergande at #1 doubles, and Anson Anderson and Sam "Scott's Twin" Elasy at #2 doubles.

They all earned number one seeds at their respected positions after multiple wins by each player during the regular season. All of the players made it to the finals of their individual fights. Witt Grana came up just short of the #1 singles title, Kinton Lewis won at #2, and Scott Wallace added to his 2015 hardware with another HVAC win at #3. The two doubles teams also won their divisions quite easily. Overall, MBA won the team HVAC title by a score of 14-10 against a second place CPA team. After the successful tournament, the team went to Sewanee for a quick exhibition match against McCallie. The Big Red whipped the Blue Tornadoes in a blowout win, to finish off a very successful season.



The 2016 Microbe Tennis Team - HVAC Champs!



“Fall Sunset” taken by Jack Flanagan

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